

Philippians 2:1-4 If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels [compassionate affection] and mercies, Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded [the same thought process], having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife [fighting] or vainglory [useless pride]; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

1. Introduction

- a. Paul wrote letter to church at Philippi while in a Roman prison
- b. Paul concerned that church would love each other, walk in unity & be of one mind

2. Our Fellowship in the Spirit

a. Consolation in Christ

- i. Comfort in Christ because Christ is our hope

Christ is our representative; 1 John 2:1 *My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, **we have an advocate** [supporter] with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:*

Christ is our High Priest; Hebrews 9:24 *For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands [the Tabernacle, then the Jerusalem Temple], which are the figures [copies] of the true; but into heaven itself, now **to appear in the presence of God for us:***

- ii. Comfort of love

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 *Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation [troubles], that **we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble**, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.*

- iii. Companionship of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit helps us when we pray; Romans 8:26 *Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities [weaknesses]: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.*

The Holy Spirit walks with us; Acts 9:31 *Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and **in the comfort of the Holy Ghost**, were multiplied.*

- iv. Compassion of God

Psalms 25:6 *Remember, O LORD, thy tender mercies and thy loving-kindnesses; for they have been ever of old.*

- b. Continuation of fellowship
 - i. Be like-minded together (of one mind, of one accord)

1 Peter 3:8 *Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful [tenderhearted], be courteous:*
 - ii. Live in harmony (agreement), showing the same love for others that Jesus showed to you
3. Our Friendship from the Heart through shared values
- a. Right motives
 - i. Walk in unity of the Spirit without strife

Ephesians 4:3 *Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

Proverbs 13:10 *Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised [enlightened] is wisdom.*
 - ii. Walk without vain glory (self-conceit or self-promoting)

Galatians 5:25-26 *If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.*

1 Timothy 6:4-6 *He [a false teacher] is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh [which are the source of] envy, strife, railings [outbursts of anger], evil surmisings [false teaching], perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute [empty] of the truth, supposing that [financial] gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself. But godliness with contentment is great [personal] gain.*
 - b. Right methods
 - i. Hold others in a higher level than yourself; humility
 - ii. Example: married husband & wife to complement (complete) each other, looking out for each other's needs.
4. Our Focus on the Needs of Others
- a. God wants us to experience the "fullness of life", John 10:10
 - b. Look to the things of others, be wary of your own unmet expectations
 - i. Encourage each other
 - ii. Be looking how you can bless others
 - iii. Follow the example of The Good Samaritan – Luke 10:30-37
 - c. The Church at Philippi gave us a good example to follow. Paul mentions their concern for him in Philippians 4:10-16
 - i. They sent him support there in the Roman prison
 - ii. They often expressed their concern for him
 - iii. They sent a man to Rome to help him, and the man became sick while he was there
 - iv. They were the only church that supported him when he was in Thessalonica